





preservative mixtures containing, for example, 0.25% sodium dehydroacetate monohydrate (a ketone acid salt) and 0.50% benzethonium chloride achieve a much greater reduction in *S. aureus*, *P. aeruginosa*, and *E. coli*, as compared to 0.5% sodium dehydroacetate monohydrate (a ketone acid salt) or 1.0% benzethonium 1622 alone (see Example 1). Synergism values for a 0.25% sodium dehydroacetate monohydrate (a ketone acid salt) and 0.50% benzethonium chloride, calculated based on the method described by C.E. Kull et al., demonstrates that these two components are synergistic when used in a mixture, as opposed to merely being additive (see page 13, lines 10-26 and Table 2). In other words, the ketone acid salt and quaternary ammonium biocide achieve better results when used together, than the collective contribution of the individual components when used separately. This unexpected effect is not disclosed in either Adachi or Biedermann, and thus these references do not render the present claims obvious.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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